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of numerous typical legends. He defended his theory that Shakespeare's fairy lore was taken wholly from the life of the english people and was essentially and wholly teutonic, while Spencer's fairy characters represented the southern or romantic ideas of the world of enchantment.

The Annual Report of the Treasurer was read.

Pending nominations, Nos. 809 to 812, and new nominations, Nos. 813 to 822, were read.

On motion of Mr. Briggs, it was resolved that the words, "and report to the Society, on the originality of the process of Mr. Wooten, and whether it is deserving of the premium of $500 offered by the Society (Nov. 16th, 1866,) for the utilization of Anthracite Coal Slack," be added to the resolution passed at the last meeting to give it effect.

And the meeting was adjourned.

Stated Meeting, December 15*th*, 1876.

Present, 15 members.

Secretary, Professor KENDALL, in the Chair.

Mr. Frank Thompson, a newly elected member, was introduced to the presiding officer, and took his seat.

A photograph of Professor Alfred M. Mayer was received for the album, in a letter dated Stevens Institute, Hoboken, Dec. 11th, 1876.

The resignation of Mr. C. E. Smith was received by letter dated Dec. 9th, 1876, and on motion accepted.

The resignation of Dr. F. G. Smith was received through the Treasurer, and on motion accepted.

Letters acknowledging the reception of publications of the Society were received from Prof. Owen, dated British Museum, Nov. 24th (97); the London Statistical Society, Somerset House Terrace, Kings College Entrance, Strand, W. C., Nov. 28th (97); the Victoria Institute, Adelphi Terrace, Strand, W. C., Nov. 23 (97); and the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W. Nov. 22d, (97).

A letter of envoy was received from the Meteorological Office, London, Nov. 1876.

Donations for the Library were received from the Verein für Kunst at Ulm; Geographical Society and Revue Politique, Paris; Meteorological Committee and London Nature; Canadian Naturalist; Vermont Historical Society; Boston Natural History Society; E. L. De Forrest and Silliman's Journal; Editors of the Sanatarian, and American Chemist, New York; Penn Monthly; American Journal of Pharmacy and Medical News; and Bureau of Education at Washington.

A letter being read from the Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, dated Bellefonte, Pa. Dec. 2d, 1876, asking permission to copy the MSS. journal of Colonel Bard in 1756, at Fort Augusta, in the library of the Society, for publication in the new series of Archives of Pennsylvania, which was granted.

Mr. Walter made a communication to the Society upon the erroneous nature of certain statements respecting the foundations of the great tower of the Public Buildings at the corner of Broad and Market Streets.

Mr. Walter called the attention of the Society to some remarks which were made at the Stated Meeting held January 21, 1876, in which the foundations of the Tower of the New Public Buildings were referred to in a manner calculated to lead to erroneous impressions, and to shake the public confidence in that great work.

The remarks alluded to are found on page 181, Vol. xvi, No. 97, of the Proceedings, and are as follows: "Mr. Blodget recounted the experience of those who laid the foundation of the Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert, where two gravels were found separated by three feet of quicksand, which required two powerful steam pumps 6″ and 8″ working night and day. The top of the quicksand layer was accidentally uncovered at the corner of the lot 40 feet deep, and this obliged the plan for laying the foundation to be entirely changed, at an expense of say $30,000.

"The great Tower of the Public Buildings, opposite to the Masonic Temple, has its foundation laid in the upper gravel, and there is a possibility of future disaster from the subjacent quicksand."

Mr. Walter stated that the foundations of the tower of the Masonic Temple were laid in what was formerly a ravine, as the dip of the strata underlying the Penn Square site clearly indicates, so that the vertical section of the excavations for the towers of the Temple will be found to be very different from that of the excavations for the tower of the Public Buildings, and can in no wise be accepted as an indication of a want of stability in the underlying strata of the latter structure. He remarked that he obtained from Mr. Windrim, the Architect of the Temple, a memorandum of the thickness and character of the several strata through which the excavation passed, in reaching the foundation of the Tower, and which does not agree, in any particular, with the statement recorded in the proceedings of the Society.

According to Mr. Windrim, the first, or upper stratum was 10 feet in thickness, consisting of a sandy loam, resting on a clay bed of 5 feet deep, underlying which occurred a stratum of sandy loam 12 feet thick ; at about 2 feet from the bottom of this, or 25 feet below the street curb, the loam was permeated with water, supposed to have percolated through the ground when the adjacent squares were open. The next 10 feet consisted of stratified gravel, at the bottom of which it became hard, and at the depth of 1 foot more, being 38 feet below the street curb, the foundations were laid in a substratum of hard, compact gravel.

Mr. Walter remarked that he considers it proper thus to refer to the foundations of the tower of the Masonic Temple, as the statement in the Society's proceedings deduces from what is there erroneously said respecting the Masonic structure, that there existed a possibility of future disaster to the great tower of the Public Buildings. Such an inference is not only unfair and unjust, but it is damaging to public confidence in a great public work, and highly detrimental to the professional reputation of its architect.

The error of such an inference cannot fail to be apparent in view of the actual geological formation of the strata in which it is founded, and the manner of its founding. It is altogether a mistake to suppose that this great tower has its foundations "laid in the upper gravel." The facts are that in digging the foundation in question the first stratum passed through was the ordinary sandy loam, under which occurs a clay bed varying from 4 to 6 feet in thickness ; then follows a stratum of gravel, and below that one of sandy loam stratified with gravel and permeated with water from the surface drainage, producing what is sometimes called quicksand ; underlying this the hard gravel commences, and continues increasing in density as it increases in depth, until it assumes the character of "water gravel," from which rises the natural flow which supplies our wells. This stratum is some 10 feet in thickness, and in this the Tower of the Public Buildings is founded. After the excavation had been made, and prepared to receive the structure, a well was dug in the centre for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the underlying soil, when it was found to consist of hard gravel, solid and compact throughout. This heavy stratum of gravel through which the natural spring water percolates, being considered by architects as the best possible foundation for a heavy structure, rock alone excepted.

Mr. Walter further stated that the foundation of this great Tower is 96 feet square, and 8 feet 6 inches deep, containing about 78,000 cubic feet, consisting of one entire mass of solid concrete, covering the whole space, and pressing equally upon its gravel bed, with which it in some measure necessarily amalgamates; and that in view of these facts, and of all the skill, care, and foresight that have been exercised in founding this, the greatest tower of the world, we need be under no apprehension of "the possibility of future disaster" to the structure.

Mr. E. K. Price, as Chairman of the Committee on the application of one-half of the income from the Michaux Legacy to botanical purposes, made a report on the Michaux and Cresson Trusts.

On motion it was: Resolved, that five hundred extra copies of the Report be printed for circulation and future use in the execution of the Trusts of the Cresson and Michaux Trusts.

Mr. Lesley read a paragraph from a recent private letter of M. Leo Lesquereux respecting new discoveries in the Carboniferous Flora of North America.

Mr. Lesley communicated a collection of Oil-well records made by Mr. J. F. Carll, Assistant on the Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, in charge of the survey in the Oil Regions of the State, with remarks on their value to men abroad and at home.

Professor Chase called attention to the Swedish statistics of color blindness.

Mr. Thompson described the investigations carried on at the shops at Altoona by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, into the values of various signal lights and their possible combinations; and stated that in the experiences of that company not a single instance had been found among the employés of such color blindness as practically incapacitates an employé from using the series of four colors, white, green, red, and blue, to which signal lights are confined.

The report of the Finance Committee was read.

The annual appropriations for the ensuing year recommended in the report were, on motion, ordered.

Pending nominations, Nos. 809 to 822, and new nominations, 823 to 829, were read.

And the meeting was adjourned.